

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-6. (cancelled)

7. (new) A method for managing data described by an extensible markup language, the method comprising:

structuring the data in the form of objects, wherein components of the objects can be stored in first files, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object; and

providing a second file having a first mechanism for referencing the components as a higher-order, object-based logical level for storing the objects.

8. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are themselves objects.

9. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the components are stored in object-specific generic containers, and wherein the containers are provided for referencing the respective object.

10. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.

11. (new) A system for managing data described by an extensible markup language, wherein objects for structuring the data are provided, wherein components of the objects can be stored in first files, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object, and wherein a second file having first mechanisms for referencing the components is provided as a higher-order, object-based logical level for storing the objects.

12. (new) The system according to claim 11, wherein the components are themselves objects.

13. (new) The system according to claim 11, wherein object-specific generic containers are provided for storing the components of the objects, with said containers serving to reference the respective object.

14. (new) The system according to claim 11, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.

15. (new) A system for managing data described by an extensible markup language, the system comprising:

- objects for structuring the data;
- a first file for storing components of the objects, wherein the components each represent a logical unit of an object; and
- a second file having a first mechanism for referencing the components as a superordinate, object-based logical level for storing the objects.

16. (new) The system according to claim 15, wherein the components are themselves objects.

17. (new) The system according to claim 15, wherein object-specific generic containers are provided for storing the components of the objects, wherein said containers serving to reference the respective object.

18. (new) The system according to claim 15, wherein the extensible markup language is XML.